

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 14-28 are added to provide additional patent protection for this invention.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Nikiforov et al. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's interference that the term "applied... in the specific patterns" (Nikiforov; column 11, line 58) means that there must be an array of different oligonucleotides is untenable. It is known in some tests to make shapes out of immobilised reagents (e.g. in the shape of a plus sign), and these would be patterns. Also, you could make a grid pattern of the same oligo on a substrate and then apply different samples to the different squares of the grid. Thus there is no direct and unambiguous teaching in this passage that the Nikiforov product should contain different immobilised oligo sequences. Nor is there any suggestion of the claimed array in the reference.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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